

The Mystery in the Lansing Case.

No surprise will be caused by the retirement from the Cabinet of Secretary Lansing, although the circumstances attendant upon that long expected event may well awaken something more than surprise.

That there was discord between the President and the Secretary of State was a matter of common notoriety at the Paris conference, and a subject freely discussed since, but it was left to the President's own letters to show that reasons still unstated added to the estrangement between the two.

It is customary in cases of this sort for wise observers to look back of the published correspondence for the true reasons for the breaking of the ties between a President and one of his official family. As a rule the written language is employed to conceal thought, and to gloss over any personal feelings. When reasons are set forth they are usually those which rebound most to the credit of him who offers them. But in this instance the motives assigned by the President for dissatisfaction with the Secretary of State will impress most people as utterly inadequate.

In the first letter of the series furnished to the press the President inquires of the Secretary whether "during my illness you have frequently called the heads of the executive departments into conference?" Upon the Secretary's affirmative answer Mr. Lansing's resignation was asked for. In the earlier letter the President had said that "under our constitutional law and practice no one but the President has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference."

But, in fact, the Constitution makes no reference to the Cabinet which as a body exists entirely without constitutional sanction. Mr. Lansing violated no constitutional principle. If he had, rebuke for that act would come curiously from the first President who ventured to transfer the seat of the executive government beyond the Atlantic. President Wilson has never hesitated to establish new precedents for the country's good, and has been generally applauded for his actions.

That the President should have been in ignorance of these informal gatherings of his Cabinet is surprising to those who have been best informed as to the conduct of matters at the White House during his illness. His secretary and his physician were frequent attendants upon the meetings, and were entrusted with the responsibility of conveying to him information as to the character of the discussion and as to certain conclusions reached. In at least two instances it has been generally believed that action was taken by direct order of the President and in accordance with the views of the Cabinet as thus reported to him.

It is apparent that grave embarrassment is likely to be caused other members of the Cabinet by the severity of the rebuke administered to Secretary Lansing. That gentleman has said that he called these outlawed meetings after conference with other members of the Cabinet. Naturally they will feel in honor bound to share with him the odium of having thus offended the President. Secretary Lane has already manfully stated his equal share in the responsibility. It is reported furthermore that at least one other member of the Cabinet not only attended the meetings called by Mr. Lansing, but procured the calling of one himself.

That there should be complete harmony between the President of the United States and the Secretary of State is at all times most desirable. During the grave international complications of the last year, which still beset us, the necessity for this harmony has been more than ever vital. President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, both men of high ability and untarnished patriotism, have been at odds on many issues of international importance. It was and is best that this situation should be ended.

We think, however, that it was unfortunate that in ending the situation the President should have assumed the tone toward his Secretary that he did. In his action taken so far as it related to the holding of unofficial Cabinet meetings Secretary Lansing was undoubtedly animated by purposes of the highest patriotism. If the President was not more ill than those about him have let the country know he must have been cognizant of these meetings, and indeed there is much evidence to indicate that he was. To base the dismissal of an official so eminent and highly respected as Robert Lansing has been, upon the unsupportable plea that he had usurped executive authority is likely to set the people wondering what were the real reasons for the act.

Dying to Live Again—But How?

The women suffragists and the third party prohibitionists of the country have been in national and State conference sessions during the past few days, triumphing in the success of the causes they have fought for, and discussing what shall become of their organizations. Coming at a time when other party funerals are intimated as near and when new parties are struggling into being the coincidence of these two conferences of a mortuary sort is doubly interesting.

Mr. Hays' appeal in behalf of the Republican National Committee that the women decide to join one or the other of the historic parties as they personally incline by conviction or tradition, and that they abstain from the reported officially approved policy of shifting their strength en masse to a League of Women Voters voting after the group fashion, is a natural plea. Mr. Cummings of the Democratic National Committee no doubt would say, "Amen." But these are perilous times for the thumpers of the party drums and clangers of the party cymbals.

The women got their victory by union, hardly won, patiently built up and strategically exercised. They see issues affecting women and children coming before State and national legislatures, where all the wisdom they have acquired as politicians can be best utilized by "group action." Why, they may naturally argue, turn themselves and their causes over to parties, bi-sex in make-up? They know that fights lie ahead. Why turn to an alliance with combatants who never conceded anything to women until forced to?

As for the partisan prohibitionists it is a peculiar phenomenon that nearly two generations of struggle to get Federal law of a sumptuary kind and involving disintegration of the States' rights doctrine in quarters where it was once strongest, have made them akin in many of their beliefs to the other class groups that champion State control of industry, commerce and transportation. So that they are now actually talking of calling themselves the "Federal" party. Jefferson and Jackson between them buried early that aggregation of conservative aristocrats known as the "Federalists." Now it bobs up again, but not serenely, and emerges from the ranks of middle class radicals with Mr. Bryan as the patron philosopher of the movement on its political theory side.

It's a splendid civic spirit that leads the employees to volunteer their services to keep the District night schools open, but it reflects little credit upon Congress that they are obliged to do it.

An association has been formed in Germany to pray for the former Kaiser, presumably in the belief better late than never.

The politicians expect the silent vote to be quite a factor in the national election, but they don't list the women in it.

New York City

By O. O. McIntyre

New York, Feb. 14.—Wall Street, now the financial pulse of the civilized world, is perhaps the best known street in New York. Next comes Broadway, that long, long road to Albany, with its many attractions. Then Fifth avenue, once the synonym for social prestige, now one of the most fascinating shopping centers in the realm of commerce.

But a street little heard of and yet one of the most interesting in Barclay street, often styled Paterson Row, from the peculiar nature of the business that for almost a century has gradually been transferring there, and radiating thence all over the English speaking world. The three blocks from Broadway to Greenwich street have become the headquarters of publishing and church goods trade and as such draw supplies and patrons not only from the United States, but from 200,000,000 of the brethren scattered throughout the universe. Books from Barclay street are used and read in every quarter of the globe.

Fate seemed to foreordain an ecclesiastical atmosphere for this highway from its inception. It was named after the Rev. Henry Barclay, who became rector of Trinity Church in the Trinity's early ministers. It is an oddly quiet street. The workmen seem imbued with a religious atmosphere. They dress in a sedate manner. They do not stand around during the lunch hour smoking cigarettes. Many of them stroll over to Broadway to enter some church for prayer.

Nearly all of them are men with families and live in the quiet sections of Staten Island.

Listening in at a Broadway cafe where a typical Broadway crowd congregates:

"Let's be decent tonight for a change!"

"That guy would take a dead fly from a blind spider."

"All right—strike me if you want to."

"Don't you think chocolate breads?"

"Chocolate? There's May and her husband is in off the road and off the reservation."

"That hat check girl will not get a nickel of my money, the fresh thing."

Copeland Townsend is New York's most erudite hotel keeper. He is a student of words—words long, short, tongue tripping and ancient. For many years he has been one of the foremost students of etymology, that branch of philology which treats of the origin and derivation of words.

Whenever an argument comes up in learned circles about the derivation of a word, Mr. Townsend is consulted. In a down town newspaper shop the other day the correspondents of the *Washington Herald* were all the fake stories come from—had sent in a weird account of a crawfish attacking a dog and dragging it under the water.

The re-write man wanted some dope about a crawfish so instead of remarks, however, that he called up Mr. Townsend.

"What," he says, "is the derivation of the word 'crawfish'?"

"Like a flash Mr. Townsend rattled off: 'Crawfish is a French word, the French crevice, modern crevice or 'semi-blind' from samblin, that is 'semi-blind.'"

"No," was the reply.

"Gosh," said the reporter, "you educated guys are always spoiling good stories."

Fred C. Kelly was for some years a reporter in Cleveland and later a Washington correspondent. It is said that he knows more public men intimately than any man in America. He is a friend of presidents, governors, financiers, bootblacks and street car conductors. He has studied human nature from every angle.

Rarely is it diplomacy to suggest the reading of a certain book, but I believe that his latest book, "Hush," written by a Frenchman, is the most absorbing volume that has been published in the last decade.

He has taken the most commonplace things of everyday life and lifted them into the realm of romance. One finds from a perusal of his book, that rain in the early forenoon hushes business; but rain late in the afternoon has a tendency to help business.

Kelly has discovered why the busiest corners in America are the busiest. And the deductions are so simple that you wonder why you have not thought of it before. He knows how many people out of a given crowd will stop in at a candy store. He knows why the hotel room that is advertised as having a view from 8 o'clock that night when there isn't a sign of a vacancy on the racks.

He has discovered that two hundred thirty men out of every thousand must have their hats size 6-7 but only one man in a thousand wears size 6-1-2.

COAL OR THE KAISER.

Editor The Washington Herald: Of the Washington Herald of February 7, appears an article entitled "Demands for War Criminals Criticized in Allied Nations." In this article Rene Viviani, former prime minister of France, states that America's failure to ratify the Versailles treaty and England's troubles in Ireland prevent the allies from bringing military pressure to bear on Germany. He then suggests a substitute demand for further supplies of coal as reparation for Germany's economic misdeeds.

Such a scheme would involve some fine appraisal work. I wonder if Rene Viviani has arrived at a fair price for the Kaiser. He ought to be worth several trainloads of good coal. France would benefit much more by burning the coal than by burning the Kaiser. They might be able to swap Von Hindenburg for a Westphalia mine, while the crown prince would probably bring a short ton for "run of mine" coal.

Rene Viviani's article seems to invite suggestions. I would therefore suggest that a commission be immediately appointed to determine the calorific value of the big Hun wanted in Paris, and that negotiations be opened with Germany for the purpose of exchanging war criminals for their equivalent heat units in coal, coke, or other desirable fuels.

C. C. CARPENTER, Clarendon, Va.

JUST JOKING.

Bob: "Scientists claim that in 2,000,000 years there will be no more rain."
Ed: "Then in 2,000,000 years I'll be dead in another A. E. F. home sector."

"SCHOOL DAYS"

By O. O. McIntyre

Say boy! That's a good scheme! We can have a show, can't we? In make some money! Over in my barn! Whatcha say?

We can have a show? Where'd you get that? We stuff? In gonna have a show over in my barn! You kin come to it if you get the price.

Step out that line! Just put over it—It's a bargain!

Bigtime stuff

2-13

A LINE O' CHEER EACH DAY O' THE YEAR

By John Kendrick Bangs

YOUR VALENTINE.

(Copyright, 1920, by The McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Whoever you are, whatever your line
If you shall need a Valentine,
I'll serve it if it shall chance to be
That you're the Soul of Sympathy.

The sufferer in need of you,
And always do the best you can
To serve and cheer your fellow-men.

THE BIBLE

Translated out of the original

languages and from the edition

known as "Our Mothers' Bible."

The Second Book of Moses, Called

EXODUS.

CHAPTER XXXIX—Continued.

3 And they did beat the gold into thin plates, and cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in fine linen, with cunning work.

4 They made shoulderpieces for it, to couple it together; by the two edges was it coupled together.

5 And the curious girdle of his ephod, that was upon it, was of the same, according to the work thereof: of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen; as the Lord commanded Moses.

6 And they wrought onyx stones, inclosed in ounces of gold, graven, as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel.

7 And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the Lord commanded Moses.

8 And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

9 It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled.

10 And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row.

11 And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

12 And the third row, a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

13 And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper: these were inclosed in ounces of gold in their inclosings.

14 And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes.

15 And they made upon the breastplate chains at the ends, of wreathen work of pure gold.

16 And they made two ounces of gold, and two gold rings, and put the two rings in the two ends of the breastplate.

17 And they put the two wreathen chains in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate.

18 And the two ends of the two wreathen chains they fastened in the two ounces, and put them on the shoulders of the ephod, before it.

19 And they made two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, upon the border of it, which was on the side of the ephod inward.

20 And they made two other golden rings, and put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forefront of it, over against the other couplings thereof, above the curious work.

21 And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that the ephod and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the Lord commanded Moses.

22 And he made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue.

23 And there was a hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.

24 And they made upon the hem of the robe, bells of pure gold, and twined linen.

25 And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates, and the hem of the robe, round about between the pomegranates.

26 A bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, round about the hem of the robe to minister in; as the Lord commanded Moses.

27 And they made coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron, and for his sons.

(To Be Continued.)

Some Georgin Philosophy.

Congressman WILL D. UPshaw of Georgia has gained a reputation as a raconteur. In the cloak room of the House he was relating stories of the Southern negro. He said: "A good colored man giving his experience in a class meeting delivered himself of this—

"Bredren, when Ah wuz a boy Ah took er hatchet an' went inter de woods. When Ah found a tree dat wuz straight an' big an' solid, ah didn't tech dat tree, but when Ah found one leanin' a little an' holler inside, Ah soon had him down. So when de debil gets after Christians he doaf tech dem dat an straight an' true, but dem as leans a little an' ah holler an suah good pickin' fer him, an' dey makes de fire ob hell burn like a shanty on fire."

C. C. CARPENTER, Clarendon, Va.

JUST JOKING.

Bob: "Scientists claim that in 2,000,000 years there will be no more rain."

Ed: "Then in 2,000,000 years I'll be dead in another A. E. F. home sector."

HUNG HECTOR.

By DWIG

In the Limelight

By George Perry Morris.

The Weather

Forecast.

District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia—Fair and much colder today, preceded by rain in early morning, cold waves by night. Lower, fair and cold; dry northwest winds.

Temperature Report.

Midnight..... 37 12 noon..... 38

2 a. m..... 36 2 p. m..... 40

4 a. m..... 35 4 p. m..... 44

6 a. m..... 36 6 p. m..... 44

8 a. m..... 36 8 p. m..... 44

10 a. m..... 37 10 p. m..... 42

Coldest: 36; lowest: 36; 2 p. m., 40; 8 p. m., 44.

Hours of sunshine, 5.5.

Per cent of possible sunshine, 47.

Departures from Normal.

Accumulated excess of temperature since January 1, 1920, -1.10.

Excess of temperature since February 1, 1920, +0.10.

Accumulated excess of precipitation since January 1, 1920, +0.10.

Excess of precipitation since February 1, 1920, +1.17.

Temperature same date last year—Highest, 60; lowest, 44.

Other Temperatures.

Highest and lowest 8 p. m. rain.

Asheville, N. C..... 56 20 0.01

Atlanta, Ga..... 56 42 0.01

Atlantic City, N. J..... 56 32 0.01

Baltimore, Md..... 56 34 0.01

Bismarck, N. Dak..... 20 - 0.01

Butte, Mont..... 30 38 0.08

Buffalo, N. Y..... 30 30 0.01

Chicago, Ill..... 30 30 0.01

Cincinnati, O..... 34 34 0.09

Cleveland, Ohio..... 34 34 0.14

Columbus, Ohio..... 34 34 0.08

Chester, Pa..... 34 34 0.08

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